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Application No. 10/722,852
Amendment A

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 28, 2004, Applicants present the following remarks and enclose herewith two terminal disclaimers.

No claims were amended, added or cancelled; thus a listing of claims is not provided. Thirty-eight (38) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1-38. Reconsideration of claims 1-38 in view of the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7-10, 13-21, 26, 29, 36-38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Double Patenting

1. Claims 1-6, 22-25, 27-28 and 30-35 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,559,602. Additionally, claims 11-12 are also rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,756,730.

Applicants submit that the present application and U.S. Patent Nos. 6,559,602 and 6,756,730 are all commonly owned by Sony Corporation and Sony Electronics Inc. For example, the present application has been assigned to Sony Corporation and Sony Electronics Inc. and recorded at reel and frame number 011900/0487 (the priority application), while U.S. Patent No. 6,559,602 has been assigned to Sony Corporation and Sony Electronics Inc. and recorded at reel and frame number 011897/0111, and U.S. Patent No. 6,756,730 has been assigned to Sony

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Corporation and Sony Electronics Inc. and recorded at reel and frame number 011896/0953. Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer for each of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,559,602 and 6,756,730 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections should be overcome and withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 7-10, 13-21, 26, 29, 36-38 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. —

With the attached terminal disclaimers, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, thus Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

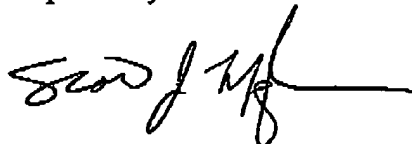
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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the above remarks place all of the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 19, 2004



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Attachments: Terminal Disclaimer for U.S. Patent No. 6,559,602
Terminal Disclaimer for U.S. Patent No. 6,756,730

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